A COUNTDOWN TIE-IN
854
M. OCT 07
ACTION
UHH, SUPERMAN? LITTLE HELP HERE?
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COUNTDOWN 37
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CLARK...
...I KNOW YOU'RE SUPERMAN!
OOOOPS!!
HOPE YOU READ
COUNTDOWN #37
BEFORE OPENING THIS BOOK! IF YOU DIDN'T... WELL, UH, WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH CHANCE TO WARN YOU BEFORE PAGE 1! SORRY!

The Daily Planet Cafeteria
I, AH...DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D BELIEVE THAT LOIS AND I ARE GOING TO A COSTUME PARTY LATER, AND I...
CLARK, I KNOW, ALL RIGHT? I KNOW.
AH, OKAY.
OKAY, YOU KNOW. HOW DO YOU KNOW?
NOW THAT, I DON'T KNOW.
LIKE I SAID, I'M MR. ACTION, THE NEW SUPERHERO THAT'S BEEN IN THE NEWS. I'VE GOT ALL THESE POWERS--SOMETIMES, AT LEAST. THEY COME AND GO.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, WELL...I KNOW THINGS. THINGS LIKE WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
I...SEE. AND BECAUSE OF THAT, YOU WANT ME TO GET YOU INTO THE JUSTICE LEAGUE? I'LL TELL YOU, JIM, I'VE READ ABOUT MR. ACTION, AND, WELL...
THERE'S MORE TO BEING IN THE LEAGUE THAN JUST STOPPING A FEW PETTY CRIMES. I KNOW. I'VE DONE MORE THAN THAT.
OH?
I CAUGHT THE EXOMORPHIC MAN, FOR ONE. AND YOU REMEMBER JUST RECENTLY, WHEN THE KRYPTONITE MAN BROKE OUT OF JAIL?
THERE'S MORE TO THAT THAN YOU PROBABLY KNOW...

SUPERMAN'S PAL
JIMMY OLSEN
in
3-2-1
ACTION!
PART 3 PAL
KURT BUSIEK WRITER
BRAD WALKER PENCILLER
LIVESAY INKER THE HORIES COLORS
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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
HA! YOU WEREN'T SO MUCH, SUPERMAN. NOT SO MUCH AT ALL.
I'LL JUST KILL YOU, AND THEN AUCTION THE CORPSE TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER...
"YOU'D GONE AFTER THE KRYPTONITE MAN AT THE AVENUE OF TOMORROW LAB HE'D TAKEN OVER, BUT HE BEAT YOU.
"I DIDN'T KNOW THAT, NOT AT THE TIME..."

WHOA, KRYPTO! WATCH THE WRISTS THERE, BUDDY!
"...BECAUSE I'D GONE AFTER HIM MYSELF, AND HE'D TIED ME UP AND STUFFED ME INTO A SUPPLY CLOSET.
"MY SIGNAL-WATCH GOT BROKEN, SO I RIGGED UP A HYPERSONIC EMITTER. IT DIDN'T CALL YOU, THOUGH."
MAN, I SHOULDA FIGURED. HIGH-PITCHED WHISTLES CALL DOGS, SO A HIGH-PITCHED SUPERMAN SIGNAL...PRESTO, KRYPTONIAN DOG!
BUT WHY DIDN'T SUPERMAN HEAR IT?
HYPER
HUH? WHAT IS IT, BOY? WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING--
RRRRR
KRKHHH
EH? WHAT IN--?
WOO! COWL!
NOT THAT HE HASN'T SEEN ME WITHOUT IT ALREADY, BUT...

RARRAROWWWFF
"BOY, KRYPTO WAS MAD. HE WAS LIKE LIGHTNING IN A COLLAR, I SNAPPED INTO SOME WOLF-POWERS, AND IT WAS GO-TIME."
H-HEY!
HRT!
WHAT? IDIOT DOG--!
SPLAT
I'LL BREAK YOU IN HALF!
OH, MAN.
ALL THAT K-RADIATION'S GOTTA BE HURTING KRYPTO--BUT I GOTTA GET SUPES OUT OF RANGE...
RIIIH?

I'LL FELL YOU AS EASILY AS I DID YOUR MASTER, DOG!
BUT YOU, I WON'T SELL...
...I'LL SKIN YOU INSTEAD, USE YOU AS A THROW RUG!
IT'S LIKE--THE MADDER HE GETS, THE MORE IRRATIONAL HE GETS.
HE COULD BE USING HIS KRYPTONITE EYE-BLASTS, BUT...
Nnh...
OH, CRAP. SUPERMAN'S DYING RIGHT HERE IN FRONT OF ME. I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING!
POWERS...?
"I FELT SOMETHING KINDA CLICK INSIDE, AND ALL OF A SUDDEN, I WAS LIKE, SOLAR-JIMMY..."
ALL RIGHT!
C'MON, PAL. BAD RADS OUT, GOOD RADS IN...

"YOU STARTED TO LOOK A LITTLE BETTER. I COULDN'T GLOW AT YOU FOR LONG, THOUGH..."
HUH?
YYIPPP!!
HEY!
WHAT KINDA SELF-RESPECTING SUPERVILLAIN BEATS UP ON A DOG?!
OKAY, SUPER-DOG, BUT STILL...
"LUCKILY..."
HFF!
YOU-- YOU--
I'LL--
I'LL MELT YOU INTO SLAG, RUBBER-BOY! TIE YOU UP IN KNOTS AND--
H-UHH!
"...IT SEEMED TO BE ENOUGH."
NO. YOU WON'T.

WHAT?!
"YOU STILL DIDN'T LOOK LIKE YOU WERE IN MUCH SHAPE TO FIGHT, BUT..."
HUH. SOMEONE... SOMEONE SAID ANGER...MADE YOU IRRATIONAL. CAN'T QUITE...REMEMBER WHO, BUT...
LOOKS LIKE LEAD-GLASS, SO...
WHAT NOW? I BEAT YOU, YOU MORON! I BEAT YOU! YOU CAN'T JUST GET UP AND--
STOP IT! STOP MUTTERING TO YOURSELF! I'LL--
--AAHH!
LET'S SEE...
...WHAT HAPPENS...
...IF I REALLY PUSH YOU OVER THE EDGE!
AAH! AHH!
YOU WON'T--I'LL KILL--
RH?

I'LL KILL YOU, SUPERMAN! I'LL KILL--
I'LL KILL--
ARRH!
AAARRRHHH!!!
THOUGHT SO. POCKET MELTDOWN.
AND ONCE HE MELTS INTO THE BUILDING'S FOUNDATIONS, THE LACK OF AIR AND THE MOLTEN LAB SHIELDING OUGHT TO SHUT HIM DOWN.
RHRRR...

"YOU SEEMED TO BE SNAPPING OUT OF THE K-RADIATION FOG TOWARD THE END, SO I THINK YOU REMEMBER THE REST..."
HE SHOULDN'T BE ANY MORE TROUBLE. BUT I'D GET HIM BACK TO THE SLAB AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
THANKS FOR THE HELP, SUPERMAN.
HARD TO IMAGINE HOW BAD THINGS COULD HAVE GOTTEN IF YOU HADN'T STOPPED HIM.
THANKS, MURPHY. BUT I DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE ALL THE CREDIT. SOMEONE HELPED ME.
I JUST... I DON'T KNOW WHO...
"I'D HAVE STUCK AROUND, BUT KRYPTO GOT HIT PRETTY HARD BY THAT LAST ZAP. I COULDN'T DO THE SOLAR THING ANYMORE..."
C'MON, C'MON...
STUPID CLOTHES--!
ONE SIDE! CLEAR THE WAY!
COMIN' THROUGH, FOLKS--BIG DOG--!

I GUESS I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU BEFORE, BUT I HAVEN'T FIXED THE SIGNAL-WATCH YET, AND DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE CLARK UNTIL TONIGHT.
IT'S OKAY. BUT THAT CERTAINLY FILLS IN THE GAPS. AND I APPRECIATE THE HELP.
BUT YOU SAW KRYPTO WAS THERE? REALLY?
UH, YEAH.
HE'S BACK AT MY PLACE NOW. WHY?
KRYPTO'S BEEN MISSING FOR OVER A YEAR--SINCE ALL THAT WITH THE OMACS, THE SPECTRE, THE REALITY CRISIS.
CONNER, THE... YOUNG MAN HE WAS STAYING WITH. HE DIED. IT APPARENTLY HIT KRYPTO HARD.
HE LEFT, WHILE I WAS STILL IN SPACE.
I COULDN'T FIND HIM. THE TRACKER CHIP IN HIS COLLAR WOULDN'T ACTIVATE, WHICH MEANT HE WAS OFF-EARTH.
WOW. GOOD THING HE CAME BACK WHEN HE DID.
IS HE ALL RIGHT?
HE'S BEEN SLEEPING A LOT, BUT HE'S OKAY. IF YOU WANT TO COME BY, PICK HIM UP...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. HE'S SAFE, AND THAT'S WHAT MATTERS. LET HIM REST, FOR NOW.

SO TELL ME. WHY DO YOU WANT TO JOIN THE LEAGUE?
UH, WELL...IT'S MY POWERS.
I NEED HELP FIGURING THEM OUT, I NEED TRAINING. I NEED SOMEONE WATCHING MY BACK 'TIL I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING. PLUS, IT'D BE COOL.
I KNOW THE LEAGUE ISN'T A TRAINING CAMP, BUT...
BUT MAYBE WE CAN HELP.
IT MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A BAD IDEA.
LET ME THINK ABOUT IT, OKAY?
UH, SURE. NO PROBLEM.
HUH.
THAT'S MY BUDDY CLARK. CLARK KENT.
AND HE MIGHT ACTUALLY GET ME INTO THE LEAGUE. THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. THAT'D BE SO...
HEY. I ALMOST FORGOT.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT MONKEY THE KRYPTONITE MAN HAD, ANYWAY?
RH!
HRH!
Bakerline
WHO'S A GOOD DOG, HUH? WHO'S THE BEST DOG IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD? HUH? HUH?

ALTHOUGH IN YOUR CASE, MAYBE IT'S THE BEST DOG IN THE UNIVERSE, HUH? WHAT A GOOD DOG, WHAT A BUDDY...
ROH! ROH!
ALL BETTER, HUH? NO MORE KRYPTONITE OUCHIES?
I GUESS YOU'LL BE GOING BACK TO SUPERMAN SOON, THEN. TOO BAD. I'VE REALLY ENJOYED HAVING A--
SNF SNFF
FWMP
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU--?
RFF! RFF!
OKAY, OKAY, I GET IT.
SURE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO CALL SUPERMAN? HE COULD COME AND--

Metro Park
RIH!
RIIIH...
OKAY, SLOWLY, SLOWLY.
NO FAST MOVES...
SURE YOU WANT ANIMAL CONTROL ON THIS, JERRY? I MEAN, THE MONKEY'S GREEN. AND AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE ZOO...
HE'S AN ANIMAL, DON. JUST DO WHATEVER YOU--
RAAHH!
BLP BLP BLPBLP BLP BLP
BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP
AAH! WHAT IN--?
UH, ON SECOND THOUGHT, DON...
...M-MAYBE YOU GOT A POINT!

PLAMM
IH!
RAHHH
OH, MAN! I'M GLAD I FOLLOWED!
KRYPTO WASN'T LEAVING-- HE JUST SMELLED MONKEY-GUY--OR HEARD HIM, OR SOMETHING!
THIS IS MY CHANCE! EVERYONE'S WATCHING, SO I CAN MAKE A BIG PUBLIC SPLASH--
--SHOW SUPERMAN THAT I BELONG IN THE JUSTICE LEAGUE!
HM?
C'MON, POWERS, C'MON...
OKAY, I FEEL IT.
HEY! JOLLY GREEN KONG! HOW 'BOUT YOU PICK ON SOMEONE...
RAH!

...YOUR OWN SIZE!

RH?

HRR...

BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP BLP

RAH!

OO, BIGGER.

WELL, GUESS WHO ELSE CAN DO THAT? YEAH!

YOU HURT MY DOG, TITANO...

RIH?

...SO MISTER ACTION, THE HUMAN SKYSCRAPER, IS GONNA PUNCH YOU INTO NEXT WEEK!

AND THEN I'LL GET TO JOIN THE LEAGUE, AND I'LL BE A STAR, AND...

AW, I CAN'T DO IT.
YOU'RE JUST A MONKEY, RIGHT? YOU'RE TIRED AND SCARED AND LONELY, AND ALL THESE PEOPLE KEEP COMING AT YOU, SO NATURALLY YOU'RE FIGHTING BACK.
BUT YOU'RE NOT REALLY LOOKING FOR A FIGHT, ARE YOU?
RHH?
WHAT YOU REALLY NEED IS SOMEONE WHO'LL HELP YOU OUT A LITTLE...
RH!
RR...
WHOA, WHOA! IT'S OKAY, BIG GREEN GUY. IT'S OKAY.
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. NOBODY WANTS TO HURT YOU. JUST CALM DOWN, WE'LL GET YOU SOME FOOD, A PLACE TO STAY...
BANANAS. YOU LIKE BANANAS?
RIH?

RIIIP!
IT'S ALL GOING TO BE OKAY, LITTLE GUY. NO MORE TROUBLE.
BUT, UH--I'M WILLING TO BET THAT PLAYING SNUGGLIES WITH A MONKEY DOESN'T GET ANYONE INTO THE LEAGUE...
YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED, J--AH, MISTER ACTION.
SOLVING A PROBLEM WITHOUT UNNECESSARY VIOLENCE OR DESTRUCTION MEANS A LOT. WE DON'T SEE NEARLY ENOUGH OF IT.
NICE WORK.
SSRPERMPH?
I WAS CONFIDENT YOU COULD HANDLE THIS--
"--SO I TOOK THE TIME TO CALL IN A FRIEND."
THIS IS JENET KLYBURN, OF S.T.A.R. LABS.
C'MERE, LITTLE FELLA. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING...
THANKS. WE'LL SEE THAT HE'S TREATED WELL...
SHE'LL BE ABLE TO GIVE THE MONKEY A GOOD HOME, AND STUDY HIS POWERS, SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THEM.
JENET, THIS IS MR. ACTION. HE'S A...COLLEAGUE OF MINE. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US...

"...WE'VE GOT A LITTLE SUPER-HERO BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF."
JIMMY, I'M IMPRESSED. SUPER-POWERED OR NOT, YOU HAVE A GOOD HEART, AND YOU CARE ABOUT PEOPLE. AND MONKEYS, FOR THAT MATTER.
YOU MEAN--
I DO.
IF YOU WANT A SHOT AT JOINING THE JLA...I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET IT.
YES!!
UH... I MEAN... THANKS, BUDDY...
AND NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED...HOW ABOUT YOU, KRYPTO? READY TO COME HOME?
IT'S BEEN GREAT HAVING YOU STAY, PAL. BUT...
RHRR?

HNNN...
HUH? KRYPTO?
C'MERE, KRYPTO. C'MON, BOY. WE'LL GO SEE MA AND PA, CHECK OUT THE NEW FORTRESS...
UH, I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. WHY'S HE ACTING LIKE THIS?
KRYPTO, THAT'S SUPERMAN! HE'S YOUR FRIEND, YOUR... YOUR PERSON! GO ON, GO AHEAD...
WHIMN...
AH. I THINK I MAY UNDERSTAND WHAT'S HAPPENING, JIMMY.
KRYPTO'S ALWAYS BEEN HAPPIEST WHEN HE'S BEEN AROUND SOMEONE YOUNG. ME WHEN I WAS A KID, CONNER ON THE FARM...
HE GETS LONELY IN THE FORTRESS, AND FELT COOPED UP WITH ME AND LOIS. AND HE MAY NOT BE OVER ALL THAT HAPPENED IN THE CRISIS.
I DON'T SUPPOSE... YOU'D BE ABLE TO...?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
YOU WANT ME TO KEEP HIM FOR A WHILE? THAT'D BE GREAT! HEY, KRYPTO, HOW 'BOUT THAT? YOU WANT TO STAY WITH ME?
WRF!

RF HRFF RARARFF
HA HA HA HA HA!
WELL. THAT'LL BE ALL RIGHT, THEN.
Bokerline
JIMMY! HEY!
YOU GOT A DOG! AND A CUTIE, TOO!
HEY, GINA.
WE'RE JUST HEADED FOR A WALK. WANT TO COME?
SURE! OH, YOU'RE ADORABLE, AREN'T YOU? WHAT'S HIS NAME, JIMMY?
AH...
"PAL." HIS NAME IS "PAL."
YOU KNOW, KRYPTO OL' BUDDY...THIS MAY BE THE BEGINNING OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP...!
FOLLOW JIMMY'S ADVENTURES IN COUNTDOWN
THEN BE HERE NEXT ISSUE FOR
ESCAPE FROM BIZARRO WORLD!

"WRITER GEOFF JOHNS AND ARTIST DALE EAGLESHAM HAVE SUCCEEDED IN MAKING THE FIRST SUPERHERO TEAM INTO ONE OF THE FRESHEST AND MOST RELEVANT."
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WRITTEN BY THE AUTHOR OF *INFINITE CRISIS*
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